

REFER TO

NH 77/836

ON3:JAB:rmt

SPECIAL  
U. S. NAVAL ~~CONVALESCENT~~ HOSPITAL

ARROWHEAD SPRINGS  
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

28 November 1945

To: The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C.  
Via: Commandant, Eleventh Naval District  
Subj: Historical Supplement to Fourth Quarterly Sanitary  
Report, Cumulative Report for Period of World War II;  
submission of

Ref: (a) BuMed ltr BuMed-Y-BHL, A2-2/EN10 of 30 Nov. 1944;  
AS&SL July-Dec. 1944, 44-1389, p 239  
(b) BuMed ltr BuMed ELG, A2-2/EN10, 10 Oct 1945,  
NavDeptBul 45-1433 of 15 Oct 1945.

In compliance with references (a) and (b) the following report  
is submitted:

1. Chronology:

a. May 1944- Arrowhead Springs Hotel leased for a naval  
convalescent hospital.

The Arrowhead Springs Hotel, located on State Highway  
No. 18, six miles north of San Bernardino, California, at an  
elevation of 2000 feet, was leased from the owners in May 1944  
for use as a naval hospital. The hotel was well-known as a  
resort for those who wanted to relax in a warm, dry climate  
in the foothills of the San Bernardino mountains. There were  
139 rooms and 10 bungalows, together with a beautiful outdoor  
swimming pool, a built-in little theater seating 130 persons,  
and other recreational facilities on the 1700 acres of moun-  
tainous terrain.

b. May 23, 1944- hospital commissioned.

With appropriate ceremonies on the front lawn, the  
hospital was placed in commission with Captain J. A. Biello  
(MC) USN (Ret) as Commanding Officer.

c. May 24, 1944- first patients received.

The U.S. Naval Hospital, Corona, California, transferred  
500 ambulatory patients to this hospital for further treatment  
and disposition.

d. August 26, 1944- tinder and brush fire.

A fire that started at about 1000, in the scrub growth of the hill near State Highway No. 18, about two miles off the hospital reservation, spread rapidly and for a time threatened to involve the entire reservation; however, by 1800 the fire had passed the vicinity of the hospital buildings and bungalows. Fires continued to break out sporadically until the next morning. The extent and fury of the fire was such that the entire reservation might have burned had it not been for the excellent work of the hospital fire department, corpsmen, and patients, with cooperation from the surrounding fire departments. A separate and detailed account of same was submitted to the Bureau as an Enclosure to the Annual Sanitary Report for 1944.

8 e. July 17, 1945- name changed by order of the Navy Department from the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital to the U.S. Naval Special Hospital. No change occurred in the type of patients received or duties performed.

f. New Construction- In June 1945, the Bureau of Yards and Docks let a contract, Noy-11766, to Scherer and Prichard, Redlands, Calif., for the construction of five (5) temporary buildings to provide additional space for the library, offices for the Educational Services Department, Occupational Therapy, Welfare and Recreation, Ship's Service, Brig, Civil Readjustment, Insurance and Legal Assistance, Red Cross, Post Office, and Officers' Club.

The construction was started on June 26th, and as of this date is approximately 98% completed. All offices will be occupied by December 1st. This will make space for approximately eighteen more officer patients in bungalows now used for offices.

2. Organization:

The organization of this hospital is as per enclosure (A). This hospital is an activity of the Eleventh Naval District.

3. Narrative Account:

The first group of 500 patients were received from the U.S. Naval Hospital, Corona, California, on May 24, 1944. From then on, patients have been received chiefly from the U.S. Naval Hospital, Long Beach, California, and occasionally from the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, California. The patients received were of all types except mental and tuberculosis cases, the only requirement being that they were male and ambulatory. A considerable percentage have been orthopedic cases.

Between the opening of the hospital and November 1, 1945, a total of 5789 patients were admitted. During the peak of wartime patient load at general hospitals, this hospital served to help in alleviating the over-crowding, and at the same time provide a beautiful, comfortable place to convalesce. Of the patients admitted, 5142 have been discharged as follows:

Surveyed to civil life.....	721
Surveyed to limited duty.....	716
Discharged to full duty.....	2866
Transferred to other hospitals	839

4. Additional Data and Sidelights on Special Subjects:

7 a. This hospital receives its patients as ambulatory cases on transfer from other naval hospitals. It did not have any outstanding emergencies or cases of an unusual nature.

Emphasis has been placed on a rounded-out rehabilitation program, with work, study, and pleasure combined.

The main hotel building lends itself very efficiently for the convalescence of patients of all types except psychiatric and tubercular cases. A curatorium, built especially for physical therapy, steam baths, Neuheim baths, massages, etc., is especially adaptable for convalescent cases. The climate is excellent and well suited for upper respiratory infections.

b. Rehabilitation Program:

During October to November 1944, the Rehabilitation Program was placed in effect at this hospital. A Physical Training Officer, Educational Services Officer, Occupational Therapist, Welfare and Recreation Officer, and a representative of the Red Cross reported during this period of time. They, together with the Rehabilitation Officer and the Chaplain, form the Rehabilitation Department.

The Physical Training Officer and his Specialists (A) assistants organized the patients into groups and they were required to take the minimum of 4 hours of physical training each week. The swimming pool area was designated as the sports' area, and in addition to swimming, there is tennis, basketball, softball, archery, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and many other activities all concentrated in that area so that it was possible for every man to find something in which he was interested to participate in as a part of his physical training. Those cases requiring special exercises were treated individually as indicated. This program was very successful and contributed materially to the well-being of the patients.



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The Educational Services Department has been an outstanding success. The Educational Services Officer organized, in conjunction with the San Bernardino Valley Junior College and the San Bernardino High School, a program whereby men that were interested could attend regular classes or special review courses, under the instructors at the schools. In addition, the junior college furnishes a teacher five mornings a week at the hospital to conduct a sub-standard readers' class. All patients who are unable to pass a 7th grade test are required to attend this class. Many of them have been able to obtain credit on high school or college work. Some have graduated from high school and one from the junior college. It is felt that the success of this program has been due to the untiring effort on the part of the Educational Services Officer, and the cooperation of the local educational authorities.

A series of forum lectures given weekly at the hospital by eminent speakers on timely subjects of interest has been maintained for over a year, through the auspices of the San Bernardino Valley Junior College and the University of Redlands. These lectures have been very popular and are well attended by patients and staff alike.

5. Conclusion:

In view of the convalescent status of this hospital, it is deemed that the rehabilitation program with its ramifications is the most effective portion of the medical program.

  
J. A. BIELLO  
Captain (MC) USN (Ret)  
Medical Officer in Command

Encl (A)  
Hospital Organization  
Chart.